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Executive Director

STATE OF UTAH

Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

UTAH SEXUAL VIOLENCE COUNCIL

Treatment Committee

Meeting Notes February 23, 2006

Members present: Ron Mervis (for Mike Conn), Ron Sanchez, Cora Peterson, Ron Gordon

Possible priority issues for Treatment Committee

- *Consistency in approach to treating sex offenders.* We need measurable standards in the treatment taking place in the community. We need to be certain we are using evidence-based approaches.
- *Resources.*
 - Prioritizing available treatment.
 - Individualizing treatment plans (requires more resources).
 - Utilizing evaluations and specialized evaluators (requires more resources).
 - Increasing treatment capacity (requires more resources).
- *Parole process.* Should there be a community panel to provide recommendations on release of sex offenders? Representatives might include substance abuse professionals, mental health professionals, therapists, community members.
- *Completion of court-ordered and board-ordered treatment for offenders.* How are we tracking this and ensuring compliance?
- *Recruiting and retention of sex offender therapists.* Treatment of sex offenders is not a popular field for therapists. There is little formal training. Recruitment is difficult.
- *Sex Offender Treatment for those who have not been adjudicated.* What resources are available and should be available for individuals who recognize they might offend sexually or have already offended sexually and have not been charged with a crime?

Assignments

- Ron Sanchez and Ron Mervis will be prepared at the next meeting to discuss current treatment capacity, unmet need for treatment, caseloads, evidence-based treatment approaches, and cost of treatment.
- Ron Gordon will ask Bobbi Morgan to lead a discussion in treatment of victims and help establish priorities.
- Ron Gordon will try to add representatives from the following to the committee: Board of Pardons, AP&P, Judiciary, Juvenile Probation.

Next Meeting: March 16 at 9am in the CVR Board Room (350 E 500 S in Salt Lake City)